

Magdalen College Punt Safety Notice

(1) Introduction

Following recent safety incidents on the River Cherwell, the JCR, alongside college authorities, have written up this notice, to be followed by all those booking out punts with Magdalen College, in order to ensure a safe and pleasurable outing.

It is the duty of everyone using a punt, whether punter or passenger, to familiarise yourself with the information presented here in order to protect yourself and others.

(2) River Conditions

The JCR Punt Reps are to make a decision at the start of everyday as to the condition of the river. A 'traffic light' system is to be used:

GREEN, AMBER, AND RED

The Punt Reps are to inform the Porters by 8am everyday as to the rating they are using for that day, and they may change the rating throughout the day depending upon changing conditions. Once a rating has been determined by the Punt Reps, it must be followed.

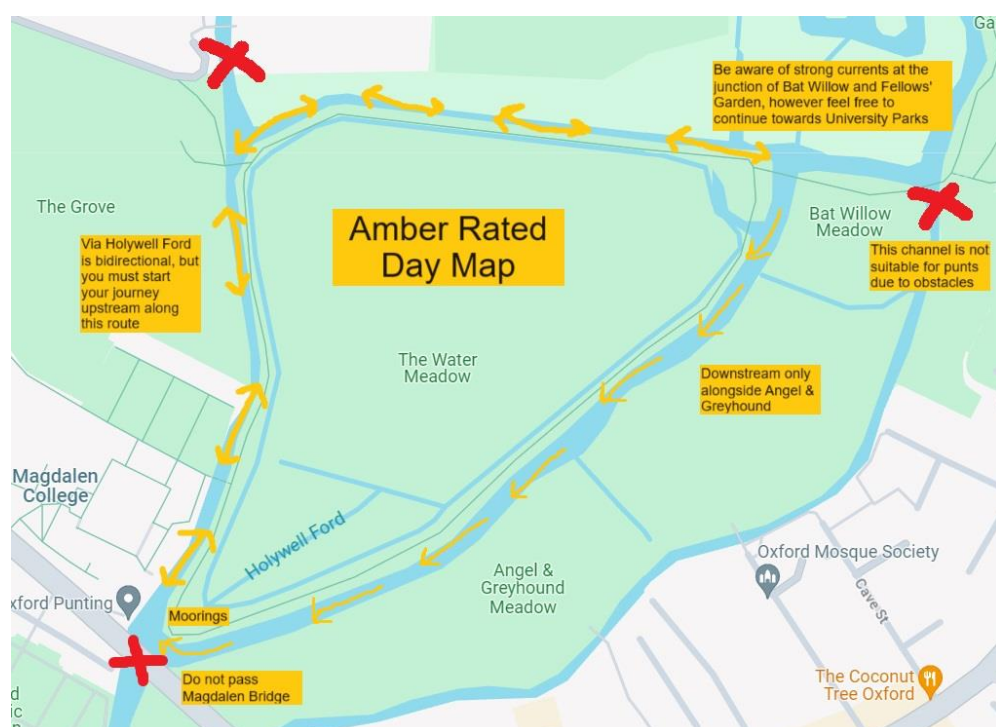
a. Green Conditions

On green rated days a punt may be booked out by solo or group punters, and the punts may be taken in any direction (either upstream via Holywell Ford, upstream via Angel & Greyhound Meadow, or Downstream (under Magdalen Bridge)).

b. Amber Conditions

On amber rated days there are a number of conditions that must be followed:

- No solo bookings; you must be in a party of at least two.
- Punts must be returned by 8:30pm, as opposed to the later 10pm.
- Punters may only begin their journey upstream via Holywell Ford, however you may return via Angel & Greyhound Meadow (see map below).
- Punters may not travel downstream under Magdalen Bridge (see map below).



c. Red Conditions

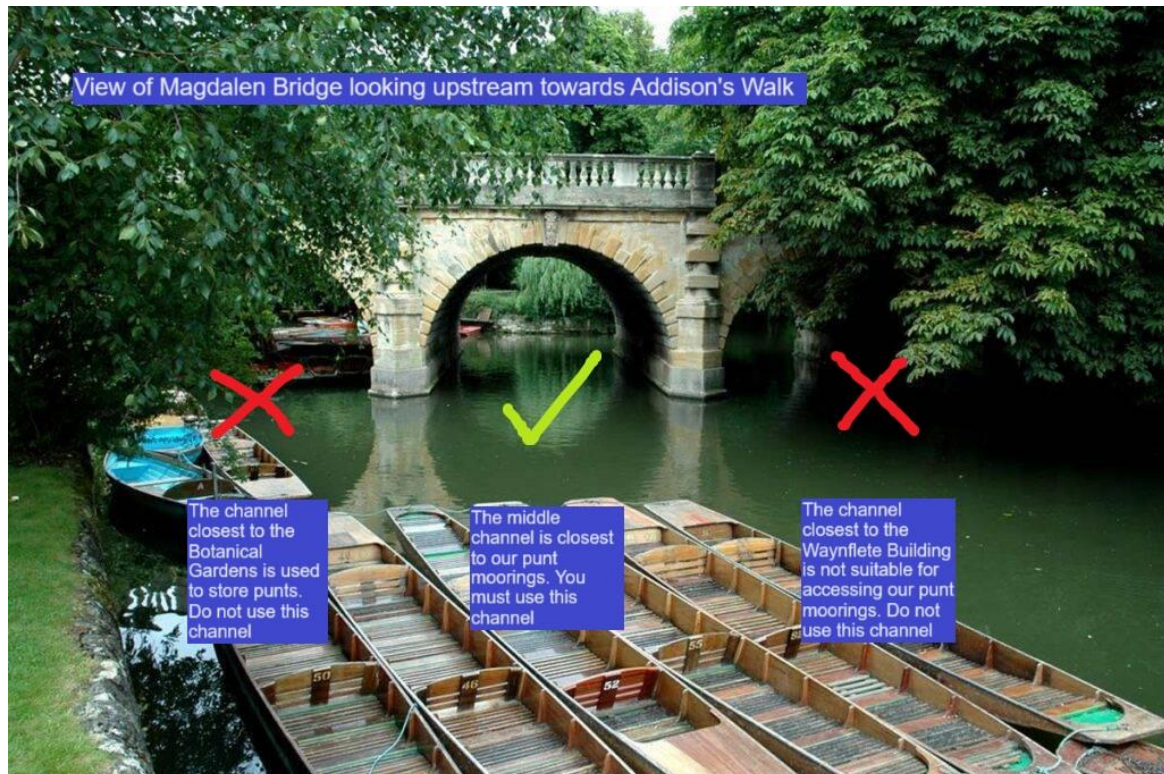
Punts are not to be booked out on days with a red rating under any circumstances.

(3) Magdalen Bridge

Navigating Magdalen Bridge can be particularly difficult; however, it is vital you understand how to pass under it should you wish to venture downstream on green rated days.

Be aware that under the riverbed is concrete under the bridge, making it exceptionally difficult to get a grip using the punt pole. Paddles should be used here.

There are three channels under the arches of Magdalen Bridge. Please refer to the map below in using them:



(4) Learning to Punt

Punting is one of the most wonderful experiences in Oxford. The JCR Punt Reps are available to provide training and advice should this be required.

The JCR Punt Reps should be contacted here: punts@magd.ox.ac.uk

(5) Incidents on the River

Although incidents are extremely rare, it is important to remain calm should you come into any difficulty. Remember that you and others on board are more important than the punt, any equipment, or belongings that you may have.

If there is an incident the porters may be contacted: 01865 276000, or in an emergency the emergency services: 999

If there is an incident, even a minor one that doesn't require assistance, or you have spotted something strange on the river, or with the punts, please inform the porters or the JCR Punt Reps as soon as possible; the more is known, the safer we can keep you.

(6) Designated Punters

If alcohol is consumed it should be in moderation, and you should assign at least one person the role of 'Designated Punter' who does not drink.

(7) Blacklist

Should these guidelines not be followed, or more generally you are known to be taking liberties with safety on the river, you will be asked not to use the punts for a period of 14 days, and may be asked to meet with the Punt Reps.

(8) Availability of this document

This document is to be digitally distributed to all members of the JCR, and must be distributed by the JCR Punt Reps by email if requested.

Printed copies are to be held by:

- The Porters
- The JCR Punt Reps
- The JCR President

Correct as of 10th May 2024

Aaron McIntyre

JCR President

Michael Daly

JCR Punt Fleet Admiral

Xavier Davis

JCR Punt Rep

Zac Smith

JCR Punt Rep